

"DUAL PURPOSE CHRISTMAS TREE BAG"

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention deals with the field of Christmas tree bags and more particularly to a combination Christmas tree bag and needle catcher skirt.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Real Christmas trees are popular despite the appearance of realistic artificial trees. A common problem with such real trees is that the needles fall off and make a mess during installation and removal, as well as while the tree is standing. Especially on carpet, these needles can be very difficult to clean up.

Many people use a tree skirt to cover the Christmas tree stand to catch some of the needles falling while the Christmas tree is standing on display. People also use a Christmas tree bag to cover the tree when the tree is taken in or out of the house and thereby catching any falling needles. A device that is a combination of a tree skirt and tree bag would be advantageous.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a bag for carrying a Christmas tree that could also serve as a tree skirt.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide such a bag that is easily removed from the Christmas tree after installation of the tree in the stand.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide such a bag that is easy to carry.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide such a bag that is washable, durable and reusable.

The invention accomplishes these objects by providing a sheet having mating closure means on opposing sides thereof such that when said closure means are fully mated, said sheet forms a bag, open on each end, of a size to accommodate a Christmas tree therein, and that when said closure means are partially mated, said sheet forms a tree skirt.

The mating closure means could be a zipper or hook and loop (Velcro™) fastener. The tree is simply placed in the bag at the point of purchase where the zipper or Velcro™ fastener and the drawstrings are closed. The trunk of the tree could extend through the bottom opening and the drawstring pulled tight around it. In this fashion the tree could be installed in the stand while still in the bag. Once the tree is installed the drawstrings can be loosened and the zipper unfastened so that the bag is easily removed from the tree.

Alternatively the zipper could be unfastened only partially to facilitate lowering the bag to the bottom of the tree where it will cover the stand and act as, or form, a tree skirt.

A handle, such as a strip of fabric-like material sewn to the exterior of the bag, could be attached to make the Christmas tree in the bag much easier to carry.

The bag could be substantially cylindrical, or be tapered to follow the shape of the tree.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

While the invention is claimed in the concluding portions hereof, preferred embodiments are provided in the accompanying detailed description which may be best understood in conjunction with the accompanying diagrams where like parts in each of the several diagrams are labeled with like numbers, and where:

Figure 1 is a side view of the embodiment with the zipper closed;

Figure 2 is a side view of the embodiment of Figure 1 with the zipper partially open;

Figure 3 illustrates the display position of the bag, of the embodiment of Figure 1, covering the tree stand and acting as a tree skirt.

Figures 4 - 6 are a series of side views of the embodiment of Figure 1 being moved from the display position over a Christmas tree to facilitate neat disposal of same.

Figures 7 and 8 are side views of another embodiment of the invention illustrating two handles sewn onto the exterior of the bag.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figures 1 and 2 show a preferred embodiment of the invention. A sheet 1 has a zipper 2 along two opposing sides thereof such that when the zipper is fully fastened, the sheet 1 forms a bag 3. Alternatively, if the zipper is partially fastened, the sheet 1 forms a tree skirt. In this embodiment the fastener

is a zipper, but a Velcro™ or other fastener could be employed as well.

Drawstrings 4 are sewn into the opposing ends of the bag 3. A handle 5 is formed of a strip of material sewn onto the exterior of the bag 3 to facilitate carrying the Christmas tree 6 (as illustrated in Figure 6). Preferably the sheet 1 is made from nylon, although cotton or other fabric-like material will be equally suitable.

Figure 3 illustrates the display position of the bag 3, of the embodiment of Figure 1, wherein the sheet 1 covers the tree stand 9 and acts as, or forms, a tree skirt 3b. Needles 7 that fall from the tree 6 land on the tree skirt 3b, or in the folds thereof, and are retained and collected there for the most part. The skirt 3b can be arranged so that the majority of the needles 7 that fall from the tree 6 will land in the folds of the skirt 3b and be collected for later disposal with the tree 6. The lower drawstring 4b could be drawn up somewhat to facilitate catching the needles 7, but could be loose enough to facilitate pouring water into the tree stand reservoir.

Figures 3 - 6 illustrate the operation of the bag 3 as used to remove a Christmas tree 6 along with the accumulated needles 7 once the tree no longer needs to be displayed. The bag 3 is partially raised to allow the lower drawstring 4b to be drawn tight around the trunk S of the Christmas tree 6. The bag 3 is then fully raised and the zipper 2 is fully fastened. Finally the upper drawstring 4a is drawn closed. The Christmas tree 6 and needles 7 are then enclosed in the bag 3. The tree 6 may then be removed from the tree stand 9 and transported neatly for disposal with the aid of the handle 5. Further, the tree 6 enclosed in the bag 3 can be easily carried inside or outside of a vehicle. Installation of the

tree 6 is accomplished in substantially the reverse order.

Alternatively the zipper 2 may be completely unfastened and the bag 3 removed from the tree 6 while it is on display. The bag 6 may be then utilized later for disposal of the tree 6. A bag 3 of nylon or cotton material is durable and washable and will last for several seasons, as opposed to present bags which are for the most part useable only once.

The cotton, nylon or other fabric-like material of the sheet 1 may be coloured in traditional Christmas colours such as red or green. The material falls in attractive folds around the tree 6, and is as well durable and washable, allowing the bag 3 to be serviceable for a number of years.

Figures 7 and 8 disclose another embodiment of the invention wherein two handles 5a, 5b are sewn onto the exterior of the bag 3. The two handles 5a, 5b are substantially aligned along the longitudinal axis of the bag 3 so as to further facilitate carrying of the tree 6 contained inside the bag 3.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous changes and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all such suitable changes or modifications in structure or operation which may be resorted to are intended to fall within the scope of the claimed invention.